

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. described today the unemployment statistics released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) as "bleak and troubling." The BLS reported that almost 600,000 jobs disappeared in January, marking the 13th straight month of job losses and bringing the total number of jobs lost to 3.6 million since December of 2007.

Congressman Jackson stated, "Today's mounting job losses and rising unemployment figures are the result and residue of the failed economic policies and philosophy of the last eight years. I hope that my colleagues in the Senate will follow in the House's footsteps and soon pass an economic recovery plan that creates, protects and preserves jobs and puts America back to work."

The Bureau of Labor Statistics also reported that the unemployment rate rose to 7.6 percent in January -- reaching its highest level since 1992. According to the report, 3.1 million additional people were working part time because they could not find full-time jobs.

"With the nation facing the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, we in Congress must take action that meets this moment's urgency. We cannot resort to the partisan bickering and political posturing that characterized the past. The American people need us to pass the economic recovery bill as soon as possible in order to create and save millions of jobs, invest in our nation's infrastructure, assist those most in need and put our country back on the path to long-term growth and prosperity," Jackson concluded.